

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL NOTE**

HJR 124

March 5, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Applauds Tennessee's judges for creating the existing veterans treatment courts and veterans court dockets and strongly urges the Tennessee Supreme Court to educate judges regarding the importance of providing assistance to justice-involved veterans and service members and to take appropriate measures to support the creation of new veterans treatment courts and dockets across Tennessee.

Encourages the following:

- court personnel and other individuals to develop an efficient and cost-effective method of identifying arrestees who have served or are currently serving in the military;
- judges to create veterans treatment courts statewide if their screening processes indicate that the number of justice-involved veterans and service members in their judicial districts is such that the creation of such court is necessary to adequately serve those veterans and service members and those served by an adjoining judicial district; and
- appropriate state agencies, judges, and other court personnel to seek federal funding as it becomes available for the establishment and subsequent operation of veterans treatment courts and veterans court dockets in Tennessee.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On March 4, 2013, a fiscal note was issued for this resolution with the following estimated impact:

Other Fiscal Impact – The creation of one veterans court is estimated to cost at least \$150,000 recurring. It is unknown how much federal funding is available to offset any, if not all, of the estimated costs to create the veterans courts or how many veterans courts would be created as a result of this resolution.

After receiving additional information, the fiscal impact of the resolution is:

(CORRECTED)

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The Administrative Office of the Courts can accomplish the directives of the resolution within existing resources.

HJR 124 (CORRECTED)

- The resolution encourages, but does not require, creation of veterans courts. Proposed legislation in the 107th General Assembly (HB 3394 – SB 3222) authorizing the creation of veterans courts to place veterans and service members charged with misdemeanors and felonies in post-adjudicatory and pre-adjudicatory programs in general sessions or criminal courts assumed that the creation of the program would result in courts requiring additional staff and related resources to operate the program.
- It was estimated that to create one veterans court would result in increased recurring expenditures of at least \$150,000 for minimal operations.
- For at least one veterans court created in each of the 31 judicial districts statewide, the result would be an increase in total recurring state and local expenditures of \$4,650,000 (\$150,000 x 31).
- It is unknown how much federal funding is available to offset any, if not all, of the estimated costs to create the veterans courts but efforts to seek such funding will not have a significant fiscal impact on state or local government.
- Enrolled copies of this resolution can be provided as directed within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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